

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 593

Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas

February 18, 2003

An act to amend Section 3206 of, and to add Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 2145) to Chapter 2 of Division 2 of, the Elections Code, and to amend Section 12950 of, and to add Section 12950.5 to, the Vehicle Code, relating to voter registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 593, as introduced, Ridley-Thomas. Voter registration.

The Secretary of State has certain administrative duties under existing law concerning provision of voter registration materials.

This bill would additionally require the Secretary of State to provide voter registration forms and information to students in all high schools, community colleges, and campuses of the California State University or University of California.

Under existing law, a voter's name is deleted from the permanent absent voter list if he or she fails to return an absentee ballot for any statewide primary or general election.

This bill would provide instead that a voter's name would be deleted only if he or she fails to return an absentee ballot for any statewide general election.

Under existing law, the Department of Motor Vehicles requires licensed persons to provide a signature.

This bill would provide that the signature must be a digitized signature, would require that the department forward the digitized signature to the Secretary of State if the person wishes to register to vote, and that the department forward change-of-address information

to the Secretary of State if the person wishes to change his or her address for voting purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 2145) is added to Chapter 2 of Division 2 of the Elections Code, to read:

Article 3.5. Student Voter Registration

2145. This article shall be known and may be cited as the Student Voter Registration Act of 2003.

2146. (a) The Secretary of State shall annually provide every high school, community college, and California State University and University of California campus with voter registration forms. The number of forms shall be consistent with the number of students enrolled at each school.

(b) The Secretary of State shall provide a written notice with each registration form describing eligibility requirements and informing each student that he or she may return the completed form in person or by mail to the elections official of the county in which the student resides.

SEC. 2. Section 3206 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3206. A voter whose name appears on the permanent absent voter list shall remain on the list and shall be mailed an absentee ballot for each election conducted within his or her precinct. If the voter fails to return an executed absent voter ballot for any statewide ~~direct primary or~~ general election in accordance with Section 3017 the voter's name shall be deleted from the list.

SEC. 3. Section 12950 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

12950. (a) Every person licensed under this code shall write his *or her* usual signature with pen and ink in the space provided for that purpose on the license issued to him *or her*, immediately on receipt thereof, and the license is not valid until so signed, except that if the department issues a form of license which bears

1 the facsimile signature of the applicant as shown upon the
2 application, the license is valid even though not so signed.

3 *(b) For purposes of subdivision (a), signature includes a*
4 *digitized signature.*

5 SEC. 4. Section 12950.5 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

6 12950.5. (a) The department shall require digitized
7 signatures on each driver's license.

8 (b) The department shall provide to the Secretary of State the
9 digitized signature of every person who registers to vote on the
10 voter registration card provided by the department.

11 (c) The department shall provide the Secretary of State with
12 change-of-address information for every voter who indicates that
13 he or she desires to have his or her address changed for voter
14 registration purposes.

